Cooperation in Science and technology between Indian and Russia

701. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advanced Computing Research Centre and the Ayurveda Research Centre were established in Moscow, under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Co-operation in Science and Technology between India and Russia, which was signed by our former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, on 3rd July 1987;

(b) if so, whether these application-oriented ILTP projects have achieved the envisaged objectives; and

(c) whether Government is thinking of widening the scope of projects under the ILTP?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Russian Indian Centre for Advanced Computing Research and Russian Indian Centre for Ayurvedic Research were established in Moscow on 3rd July, 2000 and 1st October, 2004 respectively under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Co-operation in Science and Technology between India and Russia.

(b) Yes, Sir. Advanced Computing Research Centre has been successfully working on joint projects related to fundamental and applied matters of algorithmic support for high-efficiency computers of parallel architectural design; development of software products; numeric modelling and researching in the field of continuum mechanics; physics; high-power shock detonation wave physics; ecology; geology and geophysics; processing of seismic data; weather forecasting and climate modelling; economics; satellite computer technologies; remote probing. Ayurvedic Research Centre is working towards providing necessary research and development base for undertaking studies including those on the pharmacokinetics of Ayurvedic drugs, including toxicity studies and development of improved processes for the formulation of standardized Ayurvedic drugs. Presently one major project on "Genotype-phenotype correlation based on the principles of Ayurveda with special focus on *prakriti*" is being implemented.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to widen the scope of these Centres.

Problem in hostels for backward classes' boys and girls

702. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of certain reports carried out in some sections of the electronic media that the hostels meant to house the boys and girls from backward classes are reclining under the problems of mismanagement, unhygienic living conditions and poor quality food;

(b) if so, whether any measures have been taken to improve the situation;

(c) if so, the details of measures initiated to improve the conditions of the hostels in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?